

BROWNLOW'S KNOXVILLE WHIG, AND REBEL VENTILATOR.

VOLUME I.

KNOXVILLE, TENN., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1865.

NUMBER 50.

The Knoxville Whig.

W. G. BROWNLOW, Editor.



Banner of freedom, by freedom unfurled!
Beacon of hope to a waiting world!
Shining above the stormy throng—
A life in the murky clouds of wrong—
Clouds that shall roll from their beams of light,
Till the whole round dome is blue and bright.

Knoxville, Tennessee, Jan. 25, 1865.

The Late State Convention.

The Convention at six days, and was composed of a body of able, patriotic and truly loyal men. Samuel R. Rodgers, of Knoxville, was chosen as the permanent President and discharged the responsible duties of the position with ability and promptness, and gave general satisfaction to the members.

Col. W. B. Wilson, Col. W. K. Hall, and Gen. A. C. Gillen were chosen as Vice Presidents, one from each division of the State.

In like manner three Secretaries were chosen, E. P. Cone, John Longue, and E. A. James.

A Business Committee of nine, three from each division of the State, were appointed. From Tennessee, J. C. Gant, Horace Maynard, and J. R. Hood. For Middle Tennessee, W. Basson, W. Spence, and H. Y. Cooper. And for West Tennessee, Dr. A. Gregg, J. B. Bingham, and R. K. Byrd.

On motion, Gen. Samuel Milligan was added to the committee as its chairman. All resolutions were referred to this committee to be acted upon.

Making out the Ticket.

The members of the Convention agreed upon about one-half of the Representatives and Senators to be placed upon the General Ticket, to be voted for on the 4th of March, and referred the other votes to the people of the districts and counties, also agreeing that the people shall select others, if they choose, than those named. It was distinctly avowed by the Convention that in every instance, if the people so desired, they were to make out the list of their choice, and hand the names in to the Executive Committee by the 10th of February.

All go to work and fix up their candidates, and hand in the names for East Tennessee to the Executive Committee at Knoxville, three of whom, Sam. R. Rodgers, Perez Dickinson, and Wm. G. Brownlow, reside here. If the people fail to make their own selections, as they are urged to do, the Executive Committee will make out a complete ticket, and have the same in readiness for them to pass upon on Saturday, the 4th of March.

The Nomination for Governor.

On Saturday, the last day of the Convention, the Editor of the Knoxville Whig was nominated for Governor; and one of the delegates asking if the nominee was present and would accept, he was called to the stand, and made substantially the following speech:

GENTLEMEN: I propose to settle any friendly controversy you may have sprung upon the probability of my acceptance of this nomination, by assuring you that I do accept. A nomination coming from 521 delegates, representing all the counties in the State, and conferred upon me with such absolute unanimity—no other name being mentioned for the office, and the nomination being by acclamation, and followed by such cheering, I could not do otherwise than accept. I cannot be expected to do more, and certainly I ought not to do less, than tender to you as a Convention my sincere thanks for the honor and distinction you have conferred upon me by this nomination.

I will not inflict upon you, gentlemen, a speech on this the sixth day of an arduous session, but one characterized with so much of harmony, patriotism and talents. If the people should ratify your nomination, gentlemen, allow me to assure you that what I may lack in saying I will make up in doing, in facts and deeds. And God being my helper, if you will send up to Nashville, on the first Monday in April, a Legislature that will re-organize the State Militia, and enact other necessary laws, I will put an end to this infernal system of guerrilla warfare and private and public robbery, if we have to shoot and hang all concerned in East, Middle and West Tennessee! [Loud and continued applause.] I have no fears but that the Federal authorities will furnish us with arms and ammunition, sufficient to enable us to perfect an organization for every county.

Thanking you again, gentlemen, and hoping soon to see better days in this good old Commonwealth, I take my seat.

News Items.

The Raleigh Whig comes square out for reconstruction—says the interior of the State is filled with deserters and thieves—and that the State militia have thrown aside their arms and gone home.

John C. Breckinridge is spoken of as Secretary of War. A very suitable man to wind up the farce of independence!

All citizens hereafter are to pay for riding on the U. S. Military Railroads, and no more transportation will be issued to citizens. From Chattanooga to Knoxville the fare will be ten cents per mile, and from Chattanooga to Nashville eight cents.

Rebels About.

Portions of two or three rebel regiments have appeared between Rogersville and Bristol, and are murdering and robbing Union men. Charles McKinney, of Rogersville, was robbed of a gold watch, \$300 in money, and his hat, by a throng of Vaught's scouts. They first into the family room of John Netherland, where the mother and children were alone, but fortunately did no other damage than break the window glass.

We hope our troops will cease to take any more of these men prisoners, and send them here to be hanged over in the Federal Court.

Death of Edward Everett.

We are pained to record the death of so good and great a man as Edward Everett. He died in Boston about the 16th inst., after a brief illness. He was the active and devoted friend of East Tennessee sufferers, and contributed much towards raising \$100,000 for the Relief Association. The soil of Massachusetts has never received richer spoils, than when the mortal remains of Everett were committed to the tomb!

Our Position Defined.

When the Amendments and Schedule to the constitution were proposed by the Business Committee, there was quite a discussion, as to whether the Convention should send the proposed Amendments to the people, or call a Constitutional Convention to determine upon what alterations we should. As the most of the friends and opponents of the measure had spoken, before the vote was taken, the Editor of this paper made substantially these remarks:

GENTLEMEN: I have no purpose to inflict upon you a long speech—I will adhere to the rule I urged at the beginning—the ten minute rule—in which time I can say all I desire to say. When I announced on last evening that I would define my position this morning, I may have impressed the minds of delegates that I intended a speech at length. Such is not the fact.

I think the minds of the delegates are made up, and I have no hope of changing a single vote. Indeed I would not now address the Convention, but there are some who think my position doubtful—and I cannot endure. I claim to be a positive man, that is, for or against every thing that comes up, and I never fail to let the world know where I stand, as modest a man as I am known to be!

My name has been used very freely during the six days of our sitting, in connection with the office of Governor; therefore, it is my duty to speak out, as I want no man to vote for me without understanding my position. I am for the majority report assigned by but one of the committee, and for my own personal and political friend. There is a great principle involved here, and the time has come for every man on this floor to show his hands. No sooner were the two reports read than I unhesitatingly adopted the majority report, and determined to vote for it, not seeking to dictate to any man how he should vote.

We all agree in what we want—we are harmonious in our demands; there is, however, as to how the end should be reached. Myself and the President were members of the Executive Committee that signed the call for this Convention, and the call, which had been read by other speakers, had proposed the selection by this body of one hundred men to be run on a general ticket for a Constitutional Convention. I expected that would be the work of this Convention, but the call was only suggested as those who called it had no authority to say what the Convention should or should not do. But the best legal minds on this floor have admitted that to agree upon the amendments here is just as lawful as to agree upon them in a Convention hereafter elected. This is the shortest cut, and the most direct route to the port we are aiming for, therefore I am for the majority report. All power is inherent in the people, and all governments are formed upon their authority, and instituted for their peace, safety and happiness. What we do here is to be passed upon by the people at the ballot box, on the 22d of February, and if not acceptable to them will be rejected, leaving us just where we started.

A Convention can't be held without an expenditure of seventy-five or one hundred thousand dollars, and we have no money. The traitors who brought on the rebellion ran off with the School Funds, and the assets of the State Banks and branches. I am therefore for the majority report on the score of economy. If these Amendments are adopted, as I have no doubt they will be, we are obliged to have a meeting of the Legislature right away, and its assembling will use up all the loose change this State has.

Upon the negro question there was harmony in the Convention, but some difference in the Committee, a portion of whom were favorable to negro suffrage, and negro testimony. I am the advocate of setting the negro free, and of denying in all time to come the right of man to own property in man. I am for immediate emancipation. Gradual emancipation means the gradual putting down of the rebellion. Slavery is the rebellion, and the rebellion is slavery, and to get rid of the one you must wipe out the other. This pretended necessity for delay in the matter of emancipation grows out of a lingering hope that something will turn up to save the negro to his owner. I am for freeing every negro to the Confederacy, and this is all I propose to do for the moment. This is the great debt. The negro question I propose to leave for the future, as the negro may prove himself capable. There is nothing where we shall stand twelve months to come. Ours is an age of progress. Two years ago, at the North, I published over my signature that before this rebellion terminated the rebels would advocate the arming of negroes, and the giving of them their freedom, on the condition of their fighting well. Now the war, who sympathized with the rebellion, and Copperhead papers, said I was crazy—that I was ignorant of the Southern character, and of Southern sentiment. They will not think me crazy now!

In conclusion, gentlemen, I am for action. This is the sixth day of our session, and with this work we must close our labors. I have no pet scheme to clutch at, and I have no pet man. I have had no consultation with any one—I have no ambitious purposes to accomplish—my opinions are my own—and I act as my conscience may dictate—yielding to the opinions of others when I think their plans are better than mine!

Watts on Reconstruction.

Gov. Watts, of Alabama, has perpetrated a message, which is referred to in the Richmond papers of Wednesday last as a "most patriotic document." The only portion quoted is upon "the scheme of reconstruction," in relation to which Gov. Watts takes "high moral ground."

"What guaranty, he asks, have we that from such a scheme we should ever have any peace, save that which would result from reconstruction, or a subjugation of the Confederate States?"

A reconstruction with the States from which we deliberately separated in the beginning of this contest? Who amongst you would advocate or propose it? Who in Alabama, however much he might have been opposed to Alabama's secession, would now, after three years' development of Yankee character and Yankee brutality and despotism, entertain such a proposition?

Gov. Watts becomes eloquent upon the theme, and says that "the voices from the graves of two hundred thousand fallen heroes would blanch the cheek of the recreant who would propose it." In addition to those ghostly utterances, the "honorable voices" of four hundred thousand living heroes, with arms in their hands, would forbid it. With six hundred thousand more, and dead, and all swelling in frightful chorus, Gov. Watts triumphantly asks whether any one would have the boldness to withstand the noise? Furthermore, if those who are at home would attempt such a thing, it would produce a civil war.—Ours, (the rebellion,) says Governor Watts, "is not a civil war." Over the horrors of such a war Gov. Watts becomes "plurisy," and talks about "red streams," "molten lava," and "burning avalanches," which, strange enough to say, would unnaturally produce "a picture too dark for contemplation," in which the "pall of despotism," with its "murky folds," would have to be imagined, for they could not be seen, notwithstanding the molten lava and burning avalanches, the light of which would be blotted out.

The constitution of the Rebel States shows how peace can be made, Gov. Watts says, and he asks: "Are we prepared to admit that our constitution, in this respect, is a failure? The same provisions are found in the constitution of the United States. This constitution (of the United States) was made in 1787. Was it a failure, and at this late day, have we just discovered the failure?"

This is really an unique question for a rebel. The Governor quotes a constitution against which he stands in treacherous opposition, and then, with simplicity, asks if it has been a failure. His position is precisely that of the late peace party of the North, whose admiration of the constitution, while they have been doing everything in their power to help the rebels to overthrow it, will stand upon the pages of history as an extraordinary instance of the paradoxes of politics.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Amendments to the Constitution.

Our paper failing to arrive, we issue a slip in order to lay before the voters of East Tennessee the amendments to the Constitution proposed by the late Nashville Convention, together with the Schedule and Resolutions accompanying them. Upon these the loyal voters are called to pass sentence on the 22d of February. Those in favor of the adoption of the Amendments and Schedule will vote a ticket on which shall be written or printed, "RATIFICATION," and those opposed will deposit a ballot on which shall be written or printed, "REJECTION." We have no doubt but all loyal men will vote *Ratification*, and adopt the amendments by acclamation. They are just the thing adopted by five hundred and twenty-one delegates, representing all the counties in the State, more than half of whom were slaveholders.

Should the people ratify these amendments, as they are certain to do, then, on the 4th of March, they elect a Governor and Legislature, who shall meet in the Capitol on the first Monday of April next—Let us all go to work and put these measures through!

The first Article and the first Section of the Declaration of Rights in the Constitution of the State of Tennessee declares that all power is inherent in the people and all governments are formed upon their authority, and instituted for their peace, safety and happiness; and for the advancement of these ends they have at all times an inalienable and indefeasible right to alter, reform, or abolish the government in such manner as they may think proper. Therefore, the people of the State of Tennessee, and of the United States of America, in convention assembled, do propose the following alterations and amendments to the Constitution, which, when ratified by the sovereign lawful people, shall be and constitute a part of the permanent Constitution of the State of Tennessee.

ARTICLE I.
Sec. 1. That slavery and involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, shall not exist within this State, nor shall any law be enacted to enforce or perpetuate the same, and the Legislature shall make no law recognizing the right of property in man.

Sec. 2. The Legislature shall make no law recognizing the right of property in man.

Sec. 3. The Convention, Agreement and Military League entered into by the Commissioners of the State of Tennessee and the Commissioners of the Confederate States, made May 7, 1861, and on the same day ratified and confirmed by the Legislature, was an act of treason and usurpation, unconstitutional, null and void.

Sec. 4. The Declaration of Independence and all laws dissolving the Federal relation, between the State of Tennessee and the United States of America, passed and promulgated by the late seceding Convention, and all laws and resolutions of the same, shall be and constitute a part of the permanent Constitution of the State of Tennessee, and shall be and constitute a part of the permanent Constitution of the State of Tennessee, and shall be and constitute a part of the permanent Constitution of the State of Tennessee.

Sec. 5. All laws, ordinances and resolutions, as well as all acts done in pursuance thereof, under the authority of the usurped State government after the declared independence of the State of Tennessee, on or after the 6th day of May, 1861, and all laws, ordinances and resolutions of the same, shall be and constitute a part of the permanent Constitution of the State of Tennessee, and shall be and constitute a part of the permanent Constitution of the State of Tennessee.

Sec. 6. All laws, ordinances and resolutions of the usurped State government, passed on or after the 6th day of May, 1861, providing for the issuance of State bonds, and all laws, ordinances and resolutions of the same, shall be and constitute a part of the permanent Constitution of the State of Tennessee, and shall be and constitute a part of the permanent Constitution of the State of Tennessee.

Sec. 7. All civil and military officers who have been or may hereafter be appointed by the acting Governor of the State, are hereby affirmed, and they shall continue to hold and exercise the functions of their respective offices until their successors shall be elected or appointed, null and qualified.

Sec. 8. That the proposed amendments to the Constitution, and the schedule thereto, be submitted to the people at the ballot box on the 22d day of February next, and that upon the adoption thereof by the people, an election be held on the 4th day of March next, for Governor and members of the Legislature, the latter to be voted for by general ticket, upon the basis prescribed in the accompanying resolution, and the Legislature to be elected on the 22d day of February, 1865, to assemble at the Capitol on the first Monday of April next, and officers to continue in office until their successors shall be elected and qualified, and the regular biennial election of 1867, provided, that no person be elected or appointed to any office in the State, who is not a citizen of the United States, and who is not a native-born citizen of the United States, and who is not a native-born citizen of the United States.

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placed upon the general Legislative ticket. Provided, That nothing in this resolution shall be construed to prevent the people from electing different candidates for the same office for different years for the Legislature.

The Case of Foote.

The following comments show that Ex-Governor Foote is in the hands of his Richmond enemies, and we predict they will either hang him or kill him by imprisonment. Foote was held, later and later, until the bitterest denunciations against him were uttered, and that he never leaves.

The Richmond Whig of the 14th inst., contains the following, which sufficiently explains itself.

The following communication was read in the House of Representatives yesterday, at one o'clock, from the President, through the Secretary, Col. S. H. Harris:

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, JAN. 18th. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, C. S. A. I have just read the accompanying report from the Secretary of War, stating that Henry S. Foote, a member of the House of Representatives from Tennessee, has been arrested by a military officer in Northern Virginia, while endeavoring to pass our lines on his way to the enemy's country. I submit this matter to you in order that such disposal of him may be made as to you shall see proper.

(Signed) J. A. SEDDON, Secretary of War.

WAS DEPARTMENT, C. S. A. Richmond, Jan. 18th.

To the President of the Confederate States: Sir, I have the honor to submit, for your information and direction the enclosed copy of a telegram received from the Provost Marshal at Fredericksburg. No special instructions had been given for such an arrest. Very respectfully, J. A. SEDDON, Secretary of War.

FREDERICKSBURG, Jan. 12.

To the Hon. Secretary of War:

I have arrested the Hon. H. S. Foote at Occoquan, on his way to Washington for the purpose of negotiating for peace, as he avows. Full particulars will be sent through Major Garrison, by mail. I have paroled him on major instructions. Please inform me what disposal I shall make of him.

H. S. DODD, Com. Post.

On motion of Mr. Clark, of Mo., the matter was referred to a committee of five.

Occoquan is in Prince William county, on a stream of that name, near Potomac village, about seventy-five miles from Richmond and twenty from Alexandria.

The Result of Emancipation in Maryland.

(From the Baltimore American.)

The abolition of slavery in Maryland, is being attended with the good results the friends of emancipation expected. A steady stream of emigrants from our sister States, particularly Pennsylvania, is pouring in upon us, now that free labor has become a scarce commodity. In every county of the State large numbers of land have been taken during the last two months, and the purchasers are men who intend to settle the land, and who do not purchase for the sake of speculation. The worn-out and indolent slaves of the large slaveholders, in the hands of farmers who till their grounds by free laborers—who encourage free schools and the improvement of free institutions—will place Maryland in the position among the free States that she should have occupied long ago.

The following from the Dayton Call, published in Caroline county, is an indication of the revolution taking place:

Mr. James G. Redden has sold his farm, near town, containing near 500 acres, to Mr. Jacob L. Zook, of Cumberland county, Pa., for \$25,000. It is a healthy and desirable residence.

Mr. Redden has also sold the Mansion Farm, formerly the residence of the late William Jones, near Andersonstown, to Mr. J. W. Cline, of Cumberland county, Pa., but at what price we have not learned.

Mr. Redden also sold his Barrensfield farm, near the Delaware line, to Mr. Tobias Miller, of Cumberland county, Pa., containing 100 acres, for \$3,000.

We have always understood that the land in Caroline is among the poorest in the State, and believe that the prices above specified are remarkably good. The Union, in commenting on the above sales, says:

"We would advise all persons, whether residents here or elsewhere, who wish to purchase farms in this country, do so speedily, before the prices of lands go up. They are cheap at present, but how long they will remain so, now that Maryland is a free State, no one can tell."

The Somerset Herald, in an extract which we published yesterday, says that "more land is wanted by Northerners to settle on than the State can furnish, looking for farms." Well may the President say that the genius of rebellion will no more claim Maryland! That day is gone forever.

New England.

The Albany Evening Journal thus deals with the clamor against the alleged monopoly of the Government by New England:

The chairmanship of two of the most important standing committees in the Senate (Finance and the Navy) have just been taken from New England and given to the West. The President of the United States is a western man; so is the Vice President; so are two members of the Cabinet—(Secretary of the Interior and Attorney General)—so is the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States; so is the Provost Marshal General, so is the Lieutenant General, so are Generals Sherman, Sheridan and Thomas. Of Diplomatic appointments New England has rather less than her share. Of Consulates, Pennsylvania has nearly twice as many as all the Eastern States put together. In the distribution of the minor cranks of power, the Western and Middle States have the lion's portion.

New England has her proper influence in the councils of the nation, but it is by no means a prominent one. Her moral power is fully recognized, but it is not allowed to have undue control. Her statesmen are influential, but they have not controlled the policy of the government.

There has been much talk of shaping the course of the administration during the past three years, but the Army very well knows, but it is New England, with a vengeance, that has shaped the course, timely or untimely, to suit her.

Fidelity of the Southern Blacks.

Private J. L. Elder, of the 11th Iowa Regiment, has escaped from the prison pen at Andersonville, Ga., and gives the Chicago Tribune an account of his experience, in which this passage occurs:

On the night of November 15th, Elder Captain Poston, 18th Tennessee, one of the survivors of the Fort Pillow massacre, Capt. Dickinson, Robinson and Burke, of the 16th Connecticut, Captain Reynolds, 75th Ohio, Capt. Smith, 16th Iowa, and Capt. Rathbone, 154th Ohio, planned their escape. Armed themselves with clubs, they dashed suddenly upon the guards, killing around the fire, and each singling his man, killed him to the ground before a shot could be fired or alarm given, and immediately struck for the woods. They hurried on to a negro cabin, who informed them of the locality of two boats on the Congaree River—for the negroes throughout the South are true as steel. They were also provided with sweet potatoes, live chickens and such of water. They embarked, and were soon on their way down the river, and as they glided cautiously along in the interior dark, heard afar off the baying of the huffed hound, who had led the sent at the river bank. The guards, evidently believing that the prisoners had crossed the river, gave up the chase, and returned to Columbia.

Commerce between the West and the East.

By a pamphlet issued from the Treasury Department it appears that the total value of the trade between the East and the West, leaving out way freight, is over \$1,000,000,000 per annum. And this might be greatly extended by affording superior facilities for transportation. Western money it is not to rise more prodigious because it cannot be got to market, and it might be even more profitable to raise less. The Board of Trade of that recently declared that so crowded were all the avenues between the East and the West, grain and other freight which left that city in November did not reach the seaboard till March. In Chicago it is asserted that not more than two-thirds of the present grain crop of the Northwest can be got to market. And so it is not improbable that we may soon see our above two dollars a bushel here, and yet have as few in some parts of the west.

This certainly ought not to be. At a time like this, when our foreign commerce is necessarily curtailed, there ought to be the freest development of our internal commerce, in order that all sections may share in the utmost prosperity, and all in the best condition to bear the burdens of war. And if the facts be as above indicated, they should be immediately remedied, so that the country may be able to do so. The commerce of the East would be greatly benefited by the West, whose products would be at least equally benefited thereby. In no way would the redundant capital of the country be held out to greater advantage.—Boston Journal.

The President's Last Joke.

A few days ago Bishop Ames called to pay his respects to the President, and arrived about the time for the throwing open the doors for the crowd in the ante-room. He stood an interested spectator of the patient with which the Chief Magistrate heard complaints which never should have been brought to him, and he seemed to all sorts of impossible parties. At last the Bishop felt that some remark should be given, and looked at him for a Bible. At that moment the President smiled him, and coming forward, greeted him warmly. Said Bishop A.: "But, Mr. President, I have something against you. I find no Bible in this room, and I wished to read what the fathers-in-law of Moses told him when he was doing what you are. Bearing what should go to substantiate, you know he asked him to choose on good men who should hear and decide all except the cases that were too hard for them, which, mine, they should report to him. I suggest to you, Mr. President, to follow the advice." "Thank you, Bishop," said the President. "The suggestion is good. And it reminds me, Bishop, that I was reading the other day how Moses was up in the mountain praying for Israel, and providing for Aaron the best place in the system, at the same time Aaron was down with the people at the foot of the mountain, making a golden calf to supersede Moses." As